

# **Assault On A Peer**

*A 12 year old boy assaulted a fellow pupil  
after a history of classroom bullying.*

Martin was a 12 year old schoolboy. He was into the usual things for a boy of his age – in particular – ‘nu metal’ music, and he wore various t-shirts with band logos such as ‘Linkin Park’ etc to reflect this interest. His image drew attention to him – some of it unwanted – and he was subjected to name-calling. This had been happening for about 2 years. Louis, also aged 12, started picking on and bullying Martin whilst they were both in school. Louis would name call, push and dig Martin in class, trying to get a reaction out of him, so that he would retaliate, have a fight and end up getting in trouble from the teacher. Louis also stole various belongings of Martin’s such as lunch boxes and pencil cases, which Martin found very distressing. Louis broke several pairs of Martin’s spectacles and it cost his parents money to replace them.

## **The offence**

On the day of the offence, Martin was playing in a park with friends near to his home, when Louis and a group of youths approached Martin from behind. They called him names before physically assaulting him. Martin was too frightened to retaliate, so said nothing and tried to walk away. Louis punched Martin in the eye and kicked him about the ears and body. When he returned home, Martin told his parents what had happened and they contacted the Police. Martin had sustained injuries including bruised and swollen eyes and ears. He also suffered from headaches, sleepless nights, nightmares and a lot of nervous tension, which manifested itself in mood swings and bad tempers. Martin did not suffer any of these problems prior to the assault. To help Martin deal with the situation, his mother enrolled him in Judo Classes to use his nervous energy constructively. Martin also missed 3 weeks of school, as he was afraid of reprisals, and more bullying.

## **The Outcome**

Louis was given a 3 month Referral Order for the assault and was referred to the Youth Offending Team (Yot) for intervention. Martin was contacted by the Victim Liaison Officer to invite him to have his views recorded and to be involved in the Youth Justice Process, and a home visit was arranged. Martin and his parents were interviewed, and their views were recorded. They agreed to Direct Reparation in the form of a letter of apology, and Indirect Reparation in the form of a community task. They also attended the Referral Order Panel Meeting where it was identified that both parties would volunteer for victimoffender mediation. This was arranged by the Youth Offending Team, and the Victim Liaison Officer, Louis’ Case Manager and an outside Facilitator were present at the mediation. A further home visit was made to Martin to prepare him and his family

for the mediation. The whole process from the case being allocated to mediation taking place and closing the case took 3 months. After the mediation, both parties were invited to complete an evaluation sheet regarding the process and both answered 'very satisfied'. Martin wrote "It was very helpful and it helped me understand the matter more than I did before". The meeting was followed up with a phone call to Martin, and the case was then officially closed.